

Serial No. 10/030,217, filed April 9, 2003

Docket No. 1115622-0006

Page 2 of 9

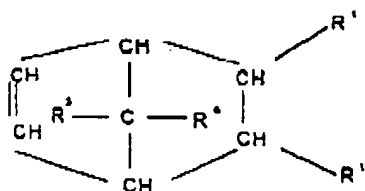
Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

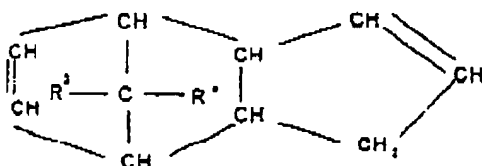
1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently amended) **A process for producing microfiber webs comprising: at least one cycloolefin polymer by melt-blowing, [[The process of claim 1,]]** wherein the cycloolefin polymer contains:

(a) 0.1-100% by weight, based on the total mass of the cycloolefin polymer, of polymerized units derived from at least one polycyclic olefin of the formulae I, II, II', III, IV, V or VI



(I),

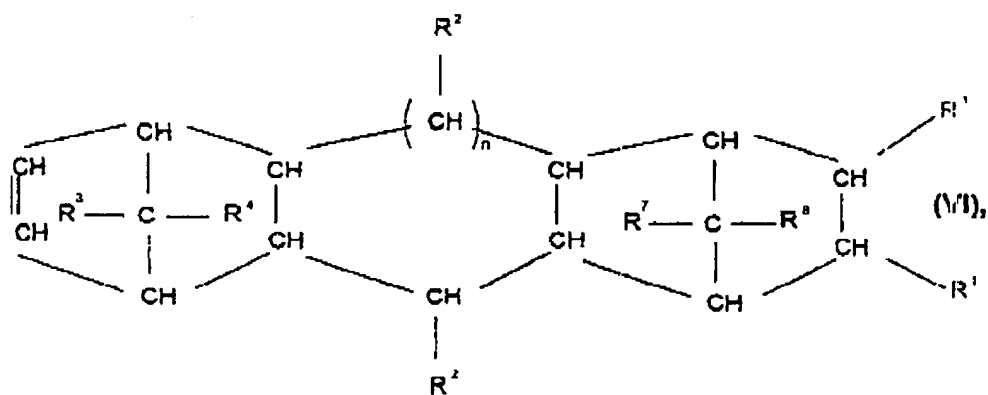
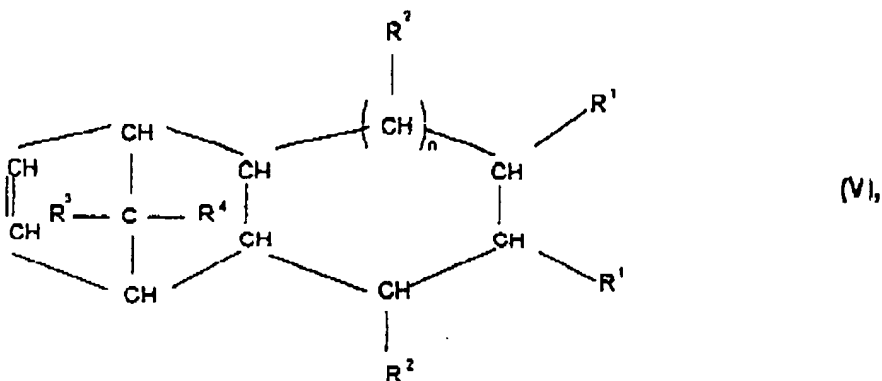
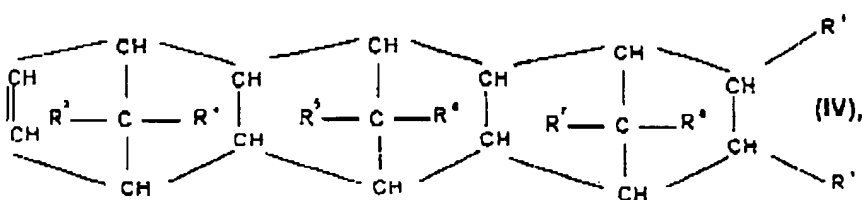
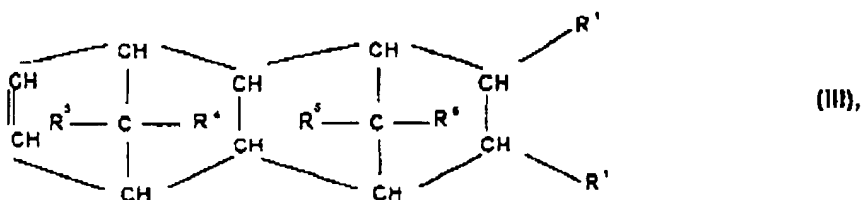
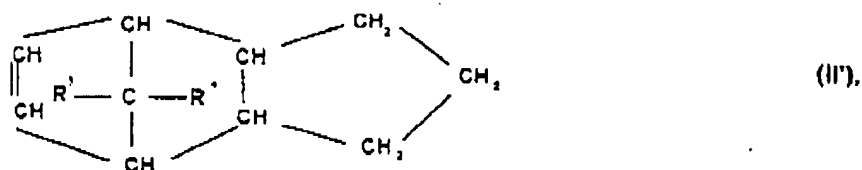


(II),

Serial No. 10/030,217, filed April 9, 2003

Docket No. 1115622-0006

Page 3 of 9



Serial No. 10/030,217, filed April 9, 2003

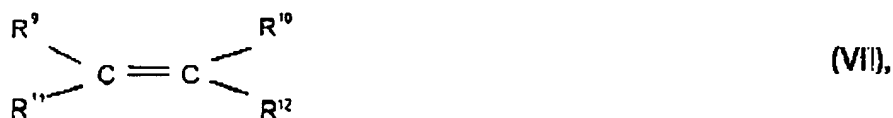
Docket No. 1115622-0006

Page 4 of 9

where $R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5, R^6, R^7$ and R^8 , which may be the same or different, are each a hydrogen atom, ~~[[or]]~~ a C_1 - C_{20} hydrocarbyl radical, ~~[[such as a linear or branched C_1 - C_8 alkyl radical, C_6 - C_{18} aryl radical, C_2 - C_{20} alkylencaryl radical,]]~~ or a cyclic or acyclic C_2 - C_{20} alkenyl radical, or form a saturated, unsaturated or aromatic ring,

subject to the proviso that the same R^1 to R^8 may have different meanings in the various formulac I to VI, and n is from 0 to 5, and

(b) 0 to 99.9% by weight, based on the total mass of the cycloolefin polymer, of polymerized units derived from one or more acyclic olefins of the formula VII



where R^9, R^{10}, R^{11} and R^{12} , which may be the same or different, are each a hydrogen atom or a linear, branched or saturated or unsaturated C_1 - C_{20} hydrocarbyl radical, ~~[[such as a C_1 - C_8 alkyl radical or a C_6 - C_{18} aryl radical,]]~~ and

(c) 0 to 45% by weight, based on the overall composition of the cycloolefin polymer, of polymerized units derived from one or more monocyclic olefins of the formula VIII



where m is from 2 to 10.

3. (Withdrawn) A melt-blown microfiber web prepared according to the process of claim 1 or 2.
4. (Withdrawn) A material comprising the melt-blown microfiber web of claim 3, wherein the material is selected from the group consisting of an oil absorber, a filter material, and an insulation material.
5. (Canceled)

Serial No. 10/030,217, filed April 9, 2003

Docket No. 1115622-0006

Page 5 of 9

6. (New) The process according to claim 2, wherein the C₁-C₂₀ hydrocarbyl radical of groups R¹, R², R³, R⁴, R⁵, R⁶, R⁷ and R⁸ is each independently selected from the group consisting of a linear C₁-C₈ alkyl radical, a branched C₁-C₈ alkyl radical, a C₆-C₁₈ aryl radical, and a C₇-C₂₀ alkylenearyl radical.

7. (New) The process according to claim 2, wherein the C₁-C₂₀ hydrocarbyl radical of groups R⁹, R¹⁰, R¹¹ and R¹² is each independently selected from the group consisting of a C₁-C₈ alkyl radical and a C₆-C₁₈ aryl radical.